

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 3, 4, 6-10, 12, 13, and 15-19 have been amended. Claims 2, 5, 11, and 14 have been cancelled without prejudice. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-10, 12, 13, and 15-20 are pending and under consideration. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-5, 10-14, and 19-20

In the Office Action at page 2, numbered item 2, claims 1-5, 10-14, and 19-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi et al. ('944) in view of Nakamura et al. (JP 07141837) and Kondo et al. (2005/0037187). Of the rejected claims, claims 2, 5, 11, and 14 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 3, 10, 12, and 19 are independent claims. This rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Independent claim 1 is directed to a record and playback apparatus which codes information and records said information which is coded in a recording medium. Amended independent claim 1 recites that "said record and playback apparatus stores, in at least one FAT entry in a FAT area provided in said recording medium, management information including time information on a time when said information is recorded, index information which can be assigned to a recording unit, and a backward pointer for connecting recording units in a backward direction." Independent claims 10 and 19 have been amended in a similar manner.

Amended independent claim 3 is also directed to a record and playback apparatus which codes information and records said information which is coded in a recording medium. Amended independent claim 3 recites that "said record and playback apparatus stores management information in at least one management area, provided separately from a FAT area, corresponding to a FAT entry in said FAT area provided in said recording medium" wherein "said management information includes time information on a time when said information is recorded, index information which can be assigned to a recording unit, and a backward pointer for connecting recording units in a backward direction." Support for the amendments to independent claim 3 can be found throughout the Specification, for example, at least in Fig. 9. Claim 12 has been amended in a similar manner.

Takahashi et al. is directed to a recording method and apparatus for continuous playback of fragmented signals. At [0074], Takahashi et al. teaches "The location and attributes such as the number, the recording date & time and the file name of each file on the disc are controlled by

referencing the FAT [File Allocation Table] 11". Fig. 4 of Takahashi et al. shows a table having entries, each including "attribute information of the file such as the name of the file ... a recording date & time, a recording channel, a recording time length and a first sector of the file. Takahashi et al. at [0078]. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Takahashi et al. merely teaches that the recording date & time of each file are recorded in a file allocation table as shown in Fig. 4.

Applicant notes that Takahashi et al. appears to use the term "FAT [File Allocation Table] 11" to broadly include an area that stores file names, file recording dates & times, recording channels, recording time lengths, and head positions of each file. This appears to correspond to the DIR area described in the present Specification at page 2, lines 1-5, which includes a file name, date and time of creation, a leading FAT pointer, etc. According to the present invention, unlike the teachings of Takahashi et al., the FAT area includes FAT entries, with each entry corresponding to a cluster and pointing to the next cluster of a file.

Nakamura et al. is relied upon merely to teach backward or reverse pointers and does not teach or suggest the use of a FAT area including FAT entries as discussed above and, thus, fails to cure the deficiencies of Takahashi et al.

Kondo et al. is relied upon merely to teach the use of a variable bit rate and, thus, fails to cure the deficiencies of Takahashi et al. and Nakamura et al. Applicant notes that the use of a variable bit rate is no longer recited in the claims.

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that Takahashi et al., Nakamura et al., and Kondo et al., whether taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest storing "in at least one FAT entry in a FAT area provided in said recording medium, management information including time information on a time when said information is recorded, index information which can be assigned to a recording unit, and a backward pointer for connecting recording units in a backward direction" as recited in amended independent claim 1. Independent claims 10 and 19 recite similar features. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent claims 1, 10, and 19, and those claims depending directly or indirectly therefrom, patentably distinguish over the prior art and are, therefore, in condition for allowance.

Further, Applicant respectfully submits that Takahashi et al., Nakamura et al., and Kondo et al., whether taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest storing "management information in at least one management area, provided separately from a FAT area, corresponding to a FAT entry in said FAT area provided in said recording medium, wherein said management information includes time information on a time when said information is recorded,

index information which can be assigned to a recording unit, and a backward pointer for connecting recording units in a backward direction" as recited in amended independent claim 3. Amended independent claim 12 recites similar features. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent claims 3 and 12, and those claims depending directly or indirectly therefrom, patentably distinguish over the prior art and are, therefore, in condition for allowance.

Claims 6-7 and 15-16

In the Office Action at page 4, numbered item 3, claims 6-7, 15-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi et al., Nakamura et al. and Kondo et al. and further in view of Moon et al. This rejection is traversed.

Moon et al. is relied upon only to teach inputs by the user that indicate which program or part of program (interval) is desired to be played back. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Moon et al. fails to cure the deficiencies of Takahashi et al., Nakamura et al., and Kondo et al. discussed above. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Takahashi et al., Nakamura et al., Kondo et al., and Moon et al., whether taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest all of the features of dependent claims 6, 7, 15, and 16. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 6, 7, 15, and 16 patentably distinguish over the prior art and are, therefore, in condition for allowance.

Claims 8 and 17

In the Office Action at page 5, numbered item 4, claims 8 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi et al., Nakamura et al. and Kondo et al. and further in view of Kikuchi et al. This rejection is traversed.

Kikuchi et al. is relied upon only to teach an index inputted by a use to locate desired information. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Kikuchi et al. fails to cure the deficiencies of Takahashi et al., Nakamura et al., and Kondo et al. discussed above. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Takahashi et al., Nakamura et al., Kondo et al., and Kikuchi et al., whether taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest all of the features of dependent claims 8 and 17. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 8 and 17 patentably distinguish over the prior art and are, therefore, in condition for allowance.

Claims 9 and 18

In the Office Action at page 5, numbered item 5, claims 9 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi et al., Nakamura et al. and Kondo et al. and further in view of Mehta. This rejection is traversed.

Mehta is relied upon only to teach that the user can input a backward pointer for locating recorded files of information. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Mehta fails to cure the deficiencies of Takahashi et al., Nakamura et al., and Kondo et al. discussed above.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Takahashi et al., Nakamura et al., Kondo et al., and Mehta, whether taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest all of the features of dependent claims 9 and 18. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 9 and 18 patentably distinguish over the prior art and are, therefore, in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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